

NEWS SUMMARY.

City Affairs. The fifty-third anniversary of the Independent Widows and Single Women's Society was celebrated yesterday at the Home, Cherry street, above Seventeenth. Rev. William W. Newton presided, and opened the meeting with religious exercises. The Treasurer and Committee of Expenditures presented their annual reports, showing the receipts of the year to have been \$24,765.73.

The annual meeting of the Ladies' Depository Society was held yesterday at the Institution, No. 136 E. Eleventh street. The receipts of the year amounted to \$1992.73, and the expenses \$1911.00. The deposits were \$3394.32, and payments for work \$10,630, upon which there was a discount of \$620.13.

The report states that the small discount charged upon the work is not sufficient to pay the salaries of the agents employed to give it out, leaving the balance, with the rent of the store and all other expenses, to be disbursed by the society. The meeting with religious exercises, the Treasurer and Committee of Expenditures presented their annual reports, showing the receipts of the year to have been \$24,765.73.

The annual report of the Managers of Wills' Hospital contains the following information: During the year the number of patients received was 18,571, from the previous year 18,571. Of the latter there were cured 109; improved, 69; lingered, 17; died, 1; not treated, 5. Number of out-door or clinical patients, 3105.

Surgical operations on house patients, 157; dispensary, 201; total, 418, of which 225 were performed in the city of Philadelphia, the remainder being for various diseases. The above is an increase of about 15 per cent. in the number of Dispensary and in-door patients. House expenses, \$2655.85; salaries and wages, \$1848.90; medical department, \$2224.94; total, \$6729.69.

Mr. O'Neill—Well, sir, that may be, but the Navy Department now proposes that we transfer the Philadelphia Navy Yard to League Island; and if we pass the bill before us we not only transfer the yard, but provide for the sale of the old location. We believe it worth \$8,500,000, and by passing the bill we give the Government in the way of selling this valuable property, thus realizing for it an amount which will go far in balancing such appropriations as we may make for the League Island. We are actually and in effect taking nothing from the Treasury. The bill does not suggest an appropriation at this time, but a transfer. The friends of League Island, of course urge the establishment upon it of such a navy station as will be a credit to the admiration of the world, and will, when completed, be unsurpassed in its construction as well as in its most wonderful location. This gift of the city of Philadelphia is priceless to the Government, and when we have by just and liberal appropriations finished the great station for iron-clads, the country will be proud of its work, and rejoice that the Thirty-ninth Congress accepted the munificent offer of these six hundred and more acres.

Domestic Affairs. Gold closed yesterday at 121 3/4. President Grant held his first public reception last evening. The Revenue receipts yesterday were only \$300,611.

Yesterday the Minnesota Senate ratified the fifteenth amendment by a vote of 16 to 13. Mr. Riddle has been confirmed as Consul to Cuba, and Mr. Moore as Appraiser at that port.

Senator Ramsey's expenses in connection with the French postal negotiations were \$724 in gold.

In view of the failure of the Reciprocity treaty, the Canadian Parliament, it is stated, will adopt more stringent measures for the protection of the fisheries and modify the present tariff.

Foreign Affairs. Rochefort's arraignment is to be discussed in the Corps Legislatif on Monday. There is some talk of the Government withdrawing its demand.

Senator Castelar introduced in the Spanish Cortes yesterday a proposition excluding the Bourbon family and all its branches from the Spanish throne.

The Pall Mall Gazette speaks of the British Columbia petition for independence as the work of American politicians, and intimated as a set-off for the Alabama claims.

League Island. The following official report of the remarks of Mr. Charles O'Neill, of the Second Pennsylvania district, upon the League Island transfer, delivered in the House of Representatives on Wednesday, will be read with interest. Mr. O'Neill said:—

I do not wish to consume the time of the House unnecessarily after the remarks of my colleague, the chairman of the Committee on Naval Affairs (Mr. Schell), but I wish to reply to a few of the objections made to this bill by my friend from Wisconsin (Mr. Washburn). All the objections to accepting League Island as a naval station were answered in the Thirty-ninth Congress, which passed the act authorizing the Government to accept it. The city of Philadelphia made this offer in good faith, and by it the country is now in possession of the island, which comprises some six hundred acres. It is hardly necessary for me to state the cost incurred by the city in acquiring the title to this land; that is not the question to-day, but I will say in passing that the amount paid originally was \$300,000. The act of acceptance required that the city of Philadelphia should give a clear and indisputable title to the island before it passed into the hands of the Government. Frequently, however, it was ascertained that for the more perfect occupation of the island itself for naval purposes it was necessary that the Government should have a clear title to a little more land than that embraced within its limits. Hence the city, without any hesitation and at additional expense of over fifty thousand dollars, making the whole cost more than three hundred and fifty thousand dollars, purchased a narrow strip of land running along the south bank of the mainland north of League Island and across the back channel, so as to give the Government jurisdiction over sufficient territory for guarding the approach to this naval station. This strip of land, included in the gift at the suggestion of the Government, made the donation more valuable, and secures forever more than six hundred acres upon which to build a naval station as rapidly as this and other Congresses may see fit to make appropriations, nearly the whole amount of which will be returned to the Treasury upon the sale of the ground now occupied by the present Navy Yard. As I have already said, the Thirty-ninth Congress—and I wish my friend from Wisconsin had been in it to hear the discussion of this matter—considered all the objections which were then made, and by the decision of that Congress these questions were, I think, settled forever. I will say here, that the "mad bank" to which he refers is all the creation of his imagination from the prejudices of those from whom he thinks he has obtained reliable information. Most of this island is fast land, and those who have been upon and examined it know this fact. The back channel, of which mention has been made, will require very little deepening to make it of sufficient depth to accommodate the largest iron-clad vessels now under the jurisdiction of the Navy Department. The bottom of this back channel, like that of the Delaware river in front of League Island, is of mud, the best bottom for a river where a navy yard is located, for a rocky bottom tears at the metal sheathing upon the vessels, and does

them other damage. The Delaware river in front of League Island has a depth of twenty-four feet at low water, and the back channel some sixteen feet. To reply to the gentleman from Wisconsin I will say further that I know something about this locality, for League Island is in the Congressional District which I have the honor to represent. It is not an unhealthy locality, and the people in that neighborhood are among the healthiest of my constituents. It is not the low, uncultivated land he describes it to be. It is not a mere reclaimed marsh. If he will refer to the reports on file in the Navy Department he will find just the contrary to be the case, and he will ascertain that the Thirty-ninth Congress was fully informed of all the excellencies and conveniences of the location of the island referred to.

Mr. Myers offered a resolution authorizing the Commissioner of Highways to notify property-owners in Pennsylvania that the same will be required for public use in three months. Referred to Highway Committee.

Mr. Sellers presented a resolution directing the Clerk of the House to distribute copies of the digest of Councils to the officers and members. Agreed to.

Mr. Hall presented an ordinance requiring the proprietors of omnibuses which may be run on any streets to pay a license of \$50 and to keep the streets in repair. Referred.

Mr. Allen presented a resolution directing the Commissioner of Highways to have the asphalt moved from Vine street, below Second street, referred to Committee on Highways.

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consideration of the subject in reference to the erection of wooden buildings.

Mr. Hanna, on Committee on Trusts and Fire, presented a report with a resolution annexed, suspending the Fane Hall and Harmony Engine Companies for three months, with loss of appropriation, for rioting.

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